



Meteor

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Quick Read

In General

Ceremonies set

Public Memorial Day ceremonies remembering American World War I and World War II dead during this 60th anniversary of the liberation of Europe and the end of World War II, have been scheduled May 28-29 at American military cemeteries in the Benelux nations. May 28th ceremonies are set at the Ardennes Military Cemetery, just south of Liege, Belgium, at 10 a.m.; at Luxembourg American Cemetery in Hamm, at 2 p.m.; and at the Henri-Chapelle Military Cemetery, Aubel, Belgium, north of Liege, at 4 p.m. May 29 ceremonies are set to honor World War I American dead in Flanders Field Cemetery, Waregem, Belgium, at 3 p.m.; and to honor World War II casualties at Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, also at 3 p.m. Bastogne has a Memorial Day ceremony at the Mardasson Memorial June 3, 2:30 p.m.

Camp Purple populates

Registration for IMA-Europe's Operation Purple Camp has been extended until May 22. Operation Purple Camp Italia in Camp Darby, Italy and Camp Bavaria in Garmisch will provide middle and high school students with a weeklong and all-expense-paid camp incorporating activities specifically related to coping with deployments. Priority is given to children of currently deployed service members, followed by returned servicemembers' children and finally children of service members pending deployment. For more information check out the IMA-Europe MWR website at www.mwr-europe.com or call MWR Child and Youth Services at DSN 370-7486, commercial 06221-57-7486.

Free concert set

Toby Keith and Task Force Eight, SHAPE International Band, perform free in a concert from U.S. Army and Air Force Entertainment, May 21, 1 p.m., at SHAPE field behind the health clinic.

Europe is free



Liberty comes at massive cost

PHOTO: Laurri Garcia

Netherlands Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende, U.S. President George Bush, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, and first lady Laura Bush salute during the playing of national anthems May 8 at Netherlands American Cemetery.

President honors fallen, vets on V-E Day

By Laurri Garcia

President George W. Bush, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende of the Netherlands joined veterans, service members, their families and local citizens May 8 at the American Cemetery in Margraten, the Netherlands, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Allied victory in Europe.

Amid a sea of 8,302 white headstones adorned with miniature U.S. and Dutch flags, Bush and Queen Beatrix laid large floral wreaths in front of a stone memorial draped with U.S. and Dutch flags honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom.

Military planes flew overhead in a missing man formation while thousands stood in the light rain as first Balkenende then Bush addressed those who turned out to mark this historic occasion.

"For the Americans who rest here, Dutch soil provides a fitting home," Bush recounted. "It was from a Dutch port that many of our pilgrim fathers first sailed for America. It was a Dutch port

that gave the American flag its first gun salute. It was the Dutch who became one of the first foreign nations to recognize the independence of the new United States of America. And when American Soldiers returned to this continent to fight for freedom, they were led by a president who owed his family name to this great land, Roosevelt."

Bush spoke of the horrors faced by the Dutch with vivid imagery.

"We come to this ground to recall the evil these Americans fought against," Bush said. "For Holland, the war began with the bombing of Rotterdam. The destruction of Rotterdam would be a signpost to the terror and humanity that the Nazi lie would impose on this continent. Like so much of Europe, over the next years of occupation, Holland would come to know curfews, and oppression, and arm bands with yellow stars, and deportation for its Jewish citizens. The winter just before liberation was the worst. When Dutch railway workers went on strike to make it harder for the German army to reinforce their troops, the Nazis

responded with a blockade that made fuel and food even more scarce. Amsterdam would wait for liberation longer than almost any other city in Europe. Before it came, more than 20,000 Dutch men, women and children would perish in what was called the 'hongerwinter,' and many others were reduced to eating tulip bulbs to stay alive."

Bush paid tribute to the American veterans in attendance as well as their Dutch comrades.

"Some of those brave troops are here with us today," Bush said, "and we welcome you and we honor you."

Balkenende also paid tribute to the fallen heroes by stating, "Americans gave us freedom to make our own choices, and 60 years of peace, prosperity and security."

This was just one stop on Bush's four-nation tour around Europe commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe.

Read how the 254th Base Support Bn. helped support the visit by President Bush on Page 6.



Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski
80th ASG Commander

The weekend after this newspaper is released is Memorial Day weekend. You will see the theme of liberation echoed throughout this edition, as we have just passed the 60th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day earlier this month. Besides your Oak Tree discussions regarding safety on the Memorial Day holiday, I would like to remind you of an additional consideration to living in

Nowowiejski Notes

the Benelux. It's the number of American Battle Monuments Commission cemeteries and memorials that are within easy driving distance. I also wanted to make you aware of the constant effort we exert to remember our fallen and their achievements in this corner of Europe. These are considerations that do not apply quite exactly the same way for the garrisons in Germany proper. Though those installations and their personnel often journey to the Benelux to contribute to memorials, we in the Benelux are the keepers of the sites, because they are in our area, within our host nations.

Over the course of Memorial Day, many of the service members of our joint communities will participate officially in ceremonies at our American cemeteries. These will be Color Guard and Honor Guard members, escorts, Chaplains, drivers, and band members. Our senior leaders will help us remember with their remarks. This effort is con-

stant and demanding. Thanks to all of you who answer the call of duty on Memorial Day to a great number of events.

What I would ask those of you who have private plans on Memorial Day to consider is taking advantage of your proximity to America's fallen in honored rest, and drive to a nearby American cemetery, and have your own private time of remembrance and memorial, or participate in one of the official events. The 80th ASG web site will carry a listing of a variety of Memorial Day ceremonies within one link at <http://www.80asg.army.mil/sites/local/> for those of you willing to take up the challenge.

The American Battle Monuments Commission, established by Congress in 1923, is the official keeper of our cemeteries and memorials. It would be a lifetime memory for you to observe an official ceremony at one of these sites, as many of us did on Sunday May 8th

with President Bush at the Netherlands American Cemetery. Here in Belgium, there are three cemeteries: Henri-Chapelle and Ardennes from World War II, and Flanders Field from World War I. There are also the Kemmel and Audenarde Memorials from World War I. Luxembourg and The Netherlands both host American World War II cemeteries by the same name. Local trips and tours have plans for some of these locations over Memorial Day. If you expand your willingness to drive to France and England, the list of sites grows greatly. The World War I memorials in France seem almost forgotten. You can discover all at the website www.abmc.gov. All cemeteries include a description of the strategic and operational histories that led to the casualties remembered there. Please do your part in this time of war to remember the fallen who rest right here in your own back yard in the Benelux.

For a schedule of Memorial Day ceremonies in the area, see the front page of this issue.

'Things go better' with accurate COLA survey

BELL SENDS #22-05

4 May 2005

Cost of Living Allowance (COLA)

and the 2005 European Living Pattern Survey

1. Every Soldier in the Army in Europe receives a cost of living allowance (COLA) to compensate for the differential in prices between CONUS and OCONUS and the effect that the euro exchange rate has on our purchasing power. This allowance is set by the euro exchange rate and data that is collected in periodic surveys known as the Living Pattern Survey and the Retail Price Schedule Survey.

2. Last year the survey data did not accurately represent our changing environment. We need to execute a solid survey that effectively reflects your cost of living in Europe. Therefore, we will survey more locations throughout the theater this year to baseline the data collection. I need your help to ensure that all Soldiers with family members (the eligible population for the survey) participate in this survey. This is your chance to help the system properly reflect your true monetary costs.

3. The 2005 European Living Pattern Survey begins 16 May and ends 17 June. This survey is required at

least once every 3 years from Soldiers with command-sponsored family members living in areas designated to conduct the survey. The survey is fully automated and can be completed online at <https://www.perdiem.osd.mil/oscola/lps/germany/> using any computer. (This Web site will be activated during the survey period.)

4. The Living Pattern Survey reports the shopping behavior of Soldiers and their family members, and serves as the basis for the Retail Price Schedule Survey, which will be conducted later this summer. The Retail Price Schedule Survey reports actual prices for a market basket of goods and services at OCONUS locations.

5. Commanders and other leaders throughout the Army in Europe need to aggressively support the Living Pattern Survey in their organizations. This important survey will affect the pay and allowances of every Soldier in the European theater. Our goal is to give all Soldiers with command-sponsored family members living in survey locations (see below) the opportunity to participate. Maximum participation

will help ensure our Soldiers get the COLA they need and deserve.

6. Our USAREUR point of contact for this survey is the 266th Finance Command (DSN 379-7846 or e-mail: Stephen.Bridges@us.army.mil). The survey locations are as follows - **Belgium:** Hainaut Province (SHAPE); Province of Limburg (Kleine Brogel.) **Germany:** Ansbach; Bremen; Garmisch; Geilenkirchen; Heidelberg; Hohenfels; Kaiserslautern Military Community; Kalkar; Potsdam; Spangdahlem; Stuttgart; Vilseck/Grafenwöhr; Wiesbaden. **Italy:** Camp Darby; Ghedi; Vicenza. **The Netherlands:** Province of Limburg (Brunssum/Schinnen); Volkel.



Gen. B. B. Bell

B. B. BELL
General, US Army
Commanding

Know what to do if you become involved in a traffic accident

Knowing how to react to your involvement in a traffic accident depends on what kind of vehicle you had an accident with, who is at fault and when the accident occurred.

If you had an accident with a Government Owned Vehicle or an AAFES vehicle, review the procedures in the "vehicle dispatch book" and then contact the Military Police. The MP's will create an accident report, which documents what happened, who is involved and who is at fault. After the accident is recorded and if no one is injured and you are not at fault, establish contact

with your local claims office as soon as possible. Your claim has to be received within two years of the accident.

If your vehicle is drivable, take it to the nearest claims office before taking any other step. Claims personnel will inform you of filing procedures and schedule an appointment for damage inspection. If you already picked up a copy of the accident report from the Provost Marshal's office, take it with you to the inspection. At the appointment, claims personnel take pictures of the damages to your vehicle and create a claims damage report.

If your vehicle is not drivable after the accident, have it towed to the nearest repair shop. You still have to contact the Claims Office and let them know of the accident before having the shop work on your vehicle. The Claims Office will then set up an appointment to meet you at the auto repair shop to do the damage investigation and to inform you of the claim filing procedures.

If you had an accident with a local national or a U.S. member, contact either military or Belgian Federal Police. Equally important, make sure to obtain the insurance information of the other

party involved, then contact with their insurance company and find out exactly what you have to do to file a claim.

In almost all cases, it is advisable to avoid having anything done to your vehicle or to get a rental car before getting advice from either your local claims office, or the other party's insurance company. One phone call now could save you a lot of time, money and heartache later on.

If you have any questions, please contact the claims personnel at the Northern Law Center, Bldg 318 on SHAPE, or call DSN 423-4061.

Ending war and preparing for peace

By Lt. Col. Scott Glass

Sixty years ago this month the continent of Europe smoldered from devastation and destruction wrought by World War II. Europe had never before seen this level of damage. All of us hope that it will never happen again. Millions killed, millions maimed, millions missing, millions displaced, millions homeless, and untold millions of dollars spent to free Europe from the hold of Nazi Germany. Was it all worth it?



Glass

From the contested landing in Normandy on June 6, 1944 by American, British, and Canadian divisions, a mighty coalition of armies numbering over 2 million men swept all the way to Czechoslovakia by

"Victory in Europe Day," May 8, 1945. Along the way the national capitals of France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands began flying their own national banners for the first time in over four years.

The price of liberation had not been cheap, and the bill both in terms of the human and material cost was going to grow exponentially in the years following V-E Day. In May 1945 about 200,000 American Soldiers lay buried in hundreds of temporary cemeteries in Europe until relatives could make a decision on their final disposition. More than 29,700 of America's war dead remain buried or commemorated here in the Benelux in the combined cemeteries of Margraten in the Netherlands, Ardennes and Henri Chapelle in Belgium, and Hamm in Luxembourg City. (It is worth remembering a roughly equivalent number of our World War I war dead from 1917-1918 are also here in northwest Europe.)

By May 1945, hundreds of thousands of American soldiers suffered wounds and injuries during their service in Europe. Wounds from the new and

identifying, and medically caring for the hundreds of thousands of living skeletons liberated from the death camps. Those that managed to survive would spend months trying to recover their health, regain their sanity, and reunite with relatives.

"Otto" was such a survivor. A Jewish business owner, he, his wife, and two daughters moved to the Netherlands to escape Nazi persecution. The German Army it seemed followed them when it invaded the Netherlands in 1940. After a period in hiding, they were caught and sent to the concentration camps. Guards separated them and Otto's wife died in January 1945. His daughters died in March just a couple weeks before the war ended. He searched for months after his liberation to find them, and then accepted the inevitable. He died in 1980. Most people remember him today as Otto Frank, the father of Anne Frank.

Millions of former German Soldiers went into makeshift prison camps in May 1945 to be processed. All had to be interviewed for complicity or knowledge of war crimes committed by German forces. Joachim Pieper was one such former German Soldier. United States Army investigators had been looking for the culprits in the murder of 80 Americans captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Pieper was one of those deemed responsible. He initially received a sentence of death. Commuted to life in prison, he became a free man in 1956. Eventually he moved to France, where he was murdered by an anti-Nazi group in 1976. The murder of the man deemed most responsible for the Malmedy Massacre remains unsolved even now.

The damage to the infrastructure in Europe was incredible. Every bridge spanning the Rhine River in Germany had collapsed before the end of the war. Sunken ships and other debris clogged seaports on every coast. Craters pockmarked every road. Many bridges spanning rivers with deep water and steep banks had been destroyed.

Even the act of buying groceries or visiting a family member in the Ardennes region of Belgium became a tough task when you lived on the wrong side of the river and the bridge was out. In the town of Martelange, however, American engineers constructed a temporary bridge under enemy fire in December 1944 that

had international implications. Belgians in Martelange used to visit Luxemburger friends and relatives across the Sauer River until well into the 1950s. That structure and thousands of others like it left behind by American engineers allowed the resumption of economic and social activity in areas devastated by war. You could say that they bridged more than just water.

Along with the operation to free Europe came the



PHOTOS: National Archives and Records Administration

"Along the way the national capitals of France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands began flying their own national banners for the first time in over four years."

obligation that many felt to rebuild it. America demonstrated many times during the Cold War that a free Europe was best not only for America, but Europe as well. The Marshall Plan poured billions of dollars into devastated areas to restore infrastructure, provide homes, and get the economic system going again.

For a worried mother in Georgia, the economic recovery of Europe or anywhere else for that matter could not have caused less concern. All she wanted was her four sons serving in combat to come home alive. Julian and Harold were fighting in the Pacific theater and would make it home. Leon and Royce served in infantry divisions in Europe and would make it home too, although Royce made it home on a stretcher. Millions of mothers felt the same way as the war was winding down. "Just let my boys come home." My grandmother got her wish, but hundreds of thousands of other American parents did not.

Everyone in Europe in May 1945 had to ask themselves at least once, "Was all THIS worth it?" I guess that their answer had largely to do with their perspective of loss and hardship suffered. A close relative gone, never to return, does not seem like a good exchange for the freedom for someone in a faraway land that you have never met. I have two sons that I love very much. Both seem to want to serve in the Army. It worries me. . . a lot. It will worry me. . . a lot.

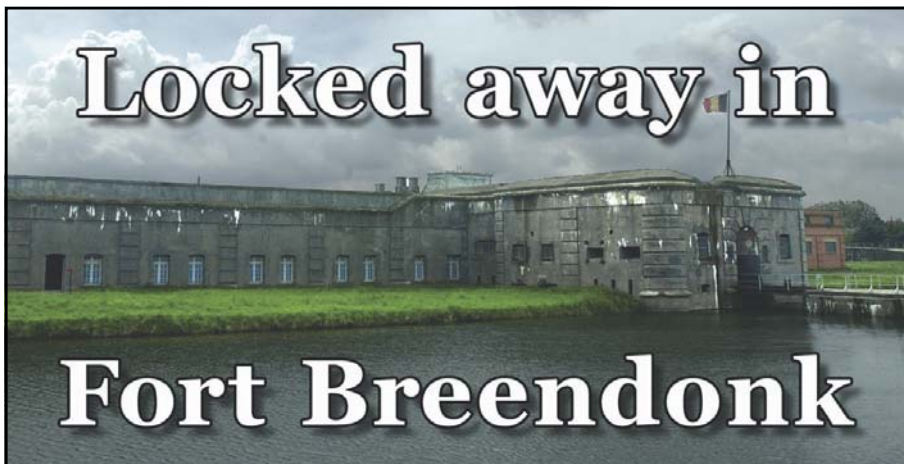
Because Liberty, whether yours or mine or someone else's, is never cheap to get or keep. Depriving a nation, or race or group of people of their liberty is a horrible, cruel thing to do. Sometimes you have to go outside your national borders and fight for what is right. In May 1945, nearly everyone in Europe in a country freed by Allied Soldiers would agree with those statements. All of us have a lot to remember and reflect upon on this coming Memorial Day.



Advancing German troops of Knittel combat group, 1st SS Panzerdivision at the Recht/Kaiserbaracke crossroads, in the Ardennes region of Belgium, December 1944.

improved destructive power of weaponry had temporarily outpaced medical care. Damage to tissue in a leg, arm, or face was readily noticeable. Not immediately noticeable was the wounds inside to the hearts and minds of Soldiers.

As Allied divisions liberated more territory inside Germany's borders, the horrible truth of the concentration camps became known. In May 1945 the Allied armies struggled with the task of housing, feeding,



Story and photos by Rick Haverinen

While the Third Reich of World War II is infamous for its death camps in Germany, Austria and Poland, none of the Nazi-occupied countries escaped having the disgrace of centralized genocide and brutality facilities created within their national borders.

When the Germans captured Fort Breendonk in the early days of World War II in May 1940, they quickly set about converting it from an artillery fort to a prison for those who resisted their occupation of Belgium, or as a transfer facility to other camps. Records indicate at least 3,532 prison-



ers were held here. Of this number, 1,733 did not survive until the prison was liberated in Sept. 1944. At least 185 prisoners were executed within the fort. A special torture chamber called "the bunker" was made in 1942 to extract information from political prisoners. The inmates were viciously put to back-breaking labor unearthing the protected buildings.

American military personnel in the SHAPE and Chièvres communities observed Holocaust Remembrance Week with a May 4 visit to this former German political prison. About 25 Americans ranging in age from their

teens to their 50s were taken on a guided tour and shown offices, barracks, open-bay toilet facilities, solitary confinement cells, and the torture room. The fort has been carefully restored with items to show how it looked 60 years ago. Several rooms have large video screens that show interviews with survivors and there are many large graphics displaying the persecutor and victim sides of the ugly work done here by the Third Reich. The tour guide related many specific stories of personalities and incidents from the Nazi era.

Of course the two-hour tour had a profound effect on the group of Americans.

"It just makes me very sad that this had to be a part of our history, and I hope that we'll never forget," said Karen Stines. "Unfortunately, it is happening in other parts of the world and it's a shame that people haven't

learned from the past."

"I thought it was interesting to see where the prisoners were kept and it was scary to find out how they used to torture them," said Christina Colon, 16. "That was kind of scary. The tour guide



Colon

who said she already knew about the

gave a lot of examples of what happened, and it didn't happen to just a few people. It happened to a lot of people."

Fort Breendonk was the first such facility seen by Monica Santoro, 14,

Continued to next page



Stines



Chris the tour guide explains torture techniques used at Breendonk to force information from prisoners.

Thunderbolt Div. returns for V-E Day



Edward Ardery, president of the 11th Armored Div. Assn., presents Bastogne Mayor Philippe Collard with a division flag and members of the association sing the Star Spangled Banner May 2 at the Mardasson Memorial.

By Rick Haverinen

Veterans of the U.S. 11th Armored Div. were in Europe earlier this month to retrace their World War II route of 60 years ago.



PHOTO: Courtesy BMI/Fotoarchiv der KZ-Gedenkstätte Mauthausen
The 11th Armored Div. liberated Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria on May 5, 1945.

The vets of the Thunderbolt Div. were in Bastogne May 2 to present the division's flag to the City of Bastogne, where they fought in the Battle of the

Bulge during the winter of 1944-1945.

The assignment to the Ardennes was a quick change in orders right after the division arrived in France in December, and that campaign, plus the cold, cost the division many casualties. By the end of January they moved down into the Luxembourg area to work on the Siegfried Line the following month. The Thunderbolts struck into Germany in early March and by the end of that month they used a pontoon bridge to cross the Rhine at Oppenheim and attacked toward Hanau and Fulda. By early April the 11th at-

tack route paralleled the Czech border and headed into Bavaria. At the end of that month they crossed into Austria and on May 4 they forced Linz to

surrender.

Along the way, the 11th Div. captured thousands of German combatants, and liberated many Allied prisoners.

The next day, May 5, the Thunderbolt Div. found the Nazi death camps of Gusen and Mauthausen. The liberators lost control of the prisoner population of Gusen during the pro-



PHOTO: Stephan Matyus, BMI/Fotoarchiv der KZ-Gedenkstätte Mauthausen
The 11th Armored Div. vets were in Austria May 8 for the 60th anniversaries of the liberation of Mauthausen concentration camp and V-E Day.

cess of capturing it, and with many old scores to settle, the inmates lynched about 500 of their own. This news reached the Nazi officers at the Mauthausen camp, and the Germans refused to surrender the camp unless the Americans proved they could maintain order. Fortunately this concentration camp population cooperated with the Americans.

The 11th Armored Soldiers who liberated the concentration camps saw why there needed to be a fight in Europe. "We got rid of a demon," said veteran Larry Falls. "Our division relieved Mauthausen con-

centration camp. I got there 2-3 days

after it had been relieved. It's hard to imagine that one human being could do such terrible things to another human being. To see that sight, you wanted to cry. It was horrific."



Falls

Falls was assigned to Bty. B, 491st Armored Field Artillery Bn., and worked as a radioman for forward artillery observers. Falls said he's happy he was part of the war.

"Of course I was drafted - I didn't enlist," Falls said. "The Marine Corps didn't want me. I had one left flat foot. Four months later I was drafted. I wouldn't trade it for a lot of money, and I think most guys would say the same thing."

Breendonk

Continued from previous page

tactics used by the Nazis against civilians.

"It was kind of good actually going there this time instead of reading about it," Santoro said. "I can't believe someone would want this."

Her father, Sgt. 1st Class William Santoro, 80th Area Support Group, thought it an appropriate time for his daughters to see some of what the Nazis did to oppress prisoners during WWII.

"I think it's a great experience for them," Santoro said. "I think they're at a great age for it, where they've already been learning a lot about this in school, and to be able to come out and see where it happened and what the facilities were like, was a great experience for them."

Curtis Harris teaches Jr. ROTC at SHAPE Ameri-

can High School and he felt it worthwhile to bring some of his students on the trip.

"They learn the importance of the military service and the horrible people out there that we have to protect each other from," Harris said, "so they got to see this first hand. It's not from a book or television. They also got to see that if we didn't have people to protect their freedom, that it would disappear."

"Stuff like that has been going on even since then, all over the world," William Santoro said. "It's on a smaller scale, but it hasn't ended. So there's always a need for a military and hopefully we can prevent it from reaching that scale ever again."

"It makes me feel proud to be part of the team," said Sgt. 1st Class Denise Guidry, U.S. Army NATO, and one of the trip's organizers, "because when you go on Web sites and you hear the survivor stories, about the people liberated, you read about American Soldiers all over the place. It makes me proud to be an American Soldier, that the

people that came before me made this profound impact on the people here in Europe. Because we made that difference, we can't afford to forget, and I think it's important that we commemorate and we remember the Holocaust so that we don't ever forget. And we shared the Breendonk deportation camp with our children, with our students and with other Soldiers so that they don't forget. I think we're headed on the right path. I think the things we're doing in the military are the things we should be doing. And reflecting back on the Holocaust, it gives me reason to think positively why we're in Iraq today."

Breendonk Fort National Memorial is located at Brandstraat 57 in Willebroek, Belgium. The memorial is open every day except the last Sunday of August, December 25 and January 1. Hours are 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. with the last admittance at 4:30 p.m. There is an entrance fee. The telephone is 32 3 860 75 25 and the fax is 32 3 866 53 91.



Monica and William Santoro



Harris



Guidry

254th BSB Tri-border News



PHOTOS: Laurri Garcia

At left, Gunt, a 1st Cavalry veteran, listens as President George Bush addresses the thousands in attendance at the 60th anniversary of V-E Day commemoration event in Netherlands American Cemetery. Above, amid a sea of white headstones, Bush addresses the crowd in the presence of Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, and first lady Laura Bush.

254th BSB Soldiers answer the call

By Laurri Garcia

President Bush chose to mark V-E Day at the American Cemetery in Margraten, The Netherlands, because of the special relationship the people of the town have with the soldiers buried there. Margraten was the first cemetery in Europe where local citizens adopted the graves.

In his speech to the veterans and thousand who turned out to mark historic occasion, Bush recalled, "In the Voice of America's radio broadcast from London on the first V-E Day, the announcer asked Europe to 'think of these Americans as your dead too.' In Dutch hearts, they already were."

Margraten is located in the southern province of Limburg near the city of Maastricht. For decades the people of Limburg have tended the graves of the Soldiers buried there, brought flowers and held them in their hearts. This commemoration was as much a tribute to their selfless dedication to those Soldiers buried there as it is to those brave young men and women who gave their lives some 60 odd years ago.

Because of Margraten's proximity to the 254th Base Support Bn., in Schinnen, the Netherlands, Soldiers and staff members from the 254th BSB, as well as service members from throughout the Tri-border area, United States Army Europe, and European

Command, worked countless hours preparing for this event.

All services were represented in the formation of troops flanking the red carpet Bush and Queen Beatrix entered the ceremony on, and Soldiers from the 254th BSB also headed up the color guard used in opening ceremonies.

"This is truly a historic occasion for the people of the Netherlands, Limburg and the 254th BSB," said Lt. Col. Rick Richardson commander for the 254th BSB. "I am proud to be part of this event. It allows us the opportunity to showcase our unique talents as well as the strong bond we share with our Dutch hosts."

This event was the culmination of many 60th Anniversary of V-E Day events held through out Europe and was the first time a U.S. President visited the cemetery. Maj. Gen. David Zabecki, Director of World War II 60th Anniversary Commemorative Events in Europe and Southern European Task Force Rear Commander, said, "This is last time many of these veterans will be able to attend one of these commemorative events, and this one is for them. We want each veteran to know we appreciate and honor them and that the sacrifices they made are not and will not be forgotten."

254th BSB personnel and the numbers of support staff from the local area

worked with U.S. Embassy personnel, and USAEUR personnel to coordinate issues such as transportation, force protection, communications and public affairs media support.

"This visit is one I will never forget," said Jan Maessen, Manpower Officer for the 254th BSB, "I am proud

to have been part of it. This was truly history, and I was part of it."

Margraten cemetery occupies 65.5 acres of rolling farmland in the Limburg region of The Netherlands and was liberated by American troops from the 30th Infantry Division, on September 13, 1944.



Soldiers from the 254th Base Support Bn. provided color guard support and first lady escort, joining numerous American service members representing each branch of the Armed Forces and Dutch Soldiers who flanked the red carpet walked by President Bush and Queen Beatrix as they entered the May 8, 60th anniversary V-E Day commemoration ceremony at Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten.

254th BSB Tri-border News



Ambassador Clifford Sobel makes a hole in front of a headstone as Jourdyn-Ruth Gaines waits to carefully place the flag.

Dutch and American children from the Tri-Border area joined Ambassador Clifford Sobel, U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands, and Mayor H. Van Beers, of Margraten, May 7, to place miniature Dutch and American flags on the graves of Soldiers buried at Margraten American Cemetery. Hundreds of local citizens participated in preparation for the Victory in Europe commemoration event held at the American Cemetery in Margraten, May 8. The children seemed oblivious to the cold and rain as they scurried to ensure each headstone was adorned with the miniature flags. All participants contributed numerous hours of their personal time to ensure the success of this historic event. Soldiers, children and citizens alike were excited by the prospect of witnessing President George W. Bush, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, and Prime Minister Jon Peter Balkenende address the crowd and recognize those buried there who paid the ultimate price for freedom.



PHOTOS: Laurri Garcia

Katlyn Moushey, of Brownie Troop 16 of Geilenkirchen, places a flag at the headstone of an American Soldier.

A good inventory is key to successful claims

‘Travel is one of the many benefits of a career in the military’, a phrase touted by recruiters of all branches of the military. For those who have chosen the military way of life, or civilian government employees transferred to a new job that entails moving, it’s a new adventure, a way to meet new faces, see new things and face new challenges; but, many don’t look forward to the packing and unpacking of household goods and furniture and the treasures they’ve collected along the way.

Incidental to moving is the sometime loss or damage of goods which have been shipped to the new duty station. According to Mr. Reggi Krijgsman, Claims Adjuster, the Netherlands Law Center, there are several easy things you can do to substantiate potential losses and protect yourself before a loss occurs.

When you move, ensure that the carrier prepares a complete and accurate inventory. The carrier should accurately list high-value items packed and their quantity. Ensure all boxes and items are numbered and listed on the inventory sheet. Make a detailed personal inventory of all your property. A personal inventory is not a substitute for other forms of substantiation, but it can help you remember what you owned and support your claim.

Keep receipts of high-value purchases, owner’s manuals for appliances and other household items in a folder for your home files. Take pictures or make a video tape of your property when receipts are not available. Pictures can often show the unique nature of personal property and value.

“For extremely valuable items such as jewelry, antiques, baseball card collections, etc., you may want to obtain an appraisal,” said Krijgsman. “The appraisal should reflect the condition and value of the item. When you move, do not ship your proof of ownership documents, hand-carry these important documents.”

Krijgsman stated that service members and DOD employees are starting to purchase very expensive and sensitive Plasma televisions.

“The Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) and Military Services Claims Offices discussed the shipping and storing of Plasma televisions and has provided information to pass on to service members and DOD employees,” said Krijgsman.

“There is a maximum of \$1,500 liability limit on televisions as stated in the allowance list depreciation guide, the reference used by Military Services Claims Offices (MSCO) for determining loss and damage claims amount,”

said Krijgsman. “Therefore special consideration should be given when packing, shipping and storing Plasma televisions.

“Service members and DOD employees who own and plan to ship/store a Plasma television, should be advised that Transportation Management Offices (TMO’s) have no control over, what may lead to damages,” Krijgsman continued. “Some transportation carriers will only ship Plasma televisions in air ride motor vans; some recommend at origin only third party media specialist be used for dismounting and prepping Plasma televisions for shipping; some carriers recommend professional installation at destination using only media specialist for installing televisions. In addition, some carriers may choose not to handle/ship Plasma televisions because of the constraints concerning shipping Plasma televisions,” he said.

Specific issues have been researched concerning packing, shipping and storing Plasma televisions and, SDDC received input from various Plasma television manufacturers such as Panasonic, Sony, etc. and the following was stated: “Plasma televisions should be shipped in their original manufacturer’s container/box”. If the member does not have the original container/box, they should be

packed in a container/box that meets the manufacturer or carrier specification. Plasma televisions must always be shipped and stored in an upright position.

The following recommendation apply regarding storage of Plasma televisions and may vary by manufacture: should be stored in a climate controlled warehouse facility where the air temperature should not fall below 15 degrees Fahrenheit or exceed 122 degrees Fahrenheit, the air humidity should not fall below 10% or exceed 90% with no condensation to help prevent damage to the Plasma television and these constraints may vary by manufacturer, due to Plasma televisions altitude storage constraints, they should not be stored at altitudes above 9,800 feet.

Members wishing to store their Plasma televisions for long periods should be advised that the government does not have climate controlled warehouses, and there is no authority to pay for such services at government expense. It would be prudent at this time for members to purchase full replacement value insurance or high value insurance for their Plasma television. Thus the Plasma television would be covered for loss and damage claims during a Household Goods (HHGs) move.

Krijgsman has offered the

following advice. When your personal property is delivered, note obvious loss or damage on DD Form 1840 (“pink or orange form”). Be sure to list inventory number, name of the item, type of damage, and approximate cost, and estimate the total amount of your loss/damage in block 14c. Both you and the carrier will sign and date the DD Form 1840, and the carrier will leave three copies with you.

For all types of moves you have 70 calendar days from the date of delivery to list additional loss/damage on the back of DD Form 1840 (DD Form 1840R) and take it to the Claims Office.

When you turn in the DD Form 1840, claims personnel will give you the appropriate instruction packet and forms for filing your claim. You have two years from the delivery date to file your claim.

The Army claims system was established to reimburse claimants for losses suffered incident to service. The Claims Office is here to assist claimants and pay valid claims. “Good preparation before your move will be of great benefit to the service member/civilian,” said Krijgsman. “If there is any loss or damage it will help assist in the payment of valid claims,” Krijgsman concluded.

Contact the Claims office at DSN 364-6211 or 31 (0)45-563-6211 if you have questions.

254th BSB Tri-border News

254th BSB Local Calendar

Asian Pacific Heritage Celebration

The 254th BSB and the Tri-border Special Emphasis Program Committee (SEPC) will host an Asian Pacific Heritage Celebration, Saturday, May 21, from 1-3 p.m. on the Schinnen Complex. There will be educational displays, exhibits and performances and a food tasting from various cultures such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Indian, Malaysian and Philippino. There will also be a Hula Hoop and Limbo contest. The event is free for NATO ID card holders and their guests.

To volunteer your assistance or inquire about the event call DSN 360-7445 or 360-7543.

Operation Purple Camp

Registration for IMA-Europe's Operation Purple Camp has been extended until May 22. Operation Purple Camp Italia in Camp Darby, Italy and Camp Bavaria in Garmisch will provide middle and high school students with a weeklong and all-expense-paid camp incorporating activities specifically related to coping with deployments. Priority is given to children of currently deployed service members, followed by returned service members' children and finally children of service members pending deployment. For more information check out the IMA-Europe

MWR website at www.mwr-europe.com or call MWR Child and Youth Services at DSN 370-7486, commercial 0622 157-7486.

Financial fitness training offered

Army Community Service and Andrews Federal Credit Union will hold Get in Shape with Solutions for a Lifetime class, May 25, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the Schinnen ACS conference room.

This is financial fitness training to improve: budgeting & check book management and more.

The class is open to all active-duty and family members. Please bring a calculator, pay vouchers and copies of bills. Lunch will be provided. Seating is limited.

For additional information call DSN 360-7450 or 31 (0)46 443-7450 or stop by the ACS or AFCU to sign up.

MWR Trips & Tours

Phantasialand, Bruhl, Germany – Sunday, May 22, day trip. Cost is \$49 for those over three-feet tall/\$25 for under three-feet tall www.phantasialand.de. Bus departs from Schinnen 8 a.m. – Approx. return at Schinnen 8 p.m.

Bruges, Belgium – Saturday, June 4, day trip. Cost is \$32.50. Bus leaves from Schinnen at 7 a.m. – Approx. return at Schinnen 9 p.m.

EuroDisney Paris, France – Sunday, June 19, Father's Day trip. Cost is \$109/adults, \$99/ages 3-11, \$49/under 3. Bus departs from Schinnen 4 a.m. – Approx. return at Schinnen 1 a.m. <http://www.disneylandparis.com/index2.htm>

Weekend Marriage Retreat

The 80th ASG Family Life Chaplain hosts a weekend Marriage Retreat, June 10-12. Cost is \$10 per couple and is open to the first 19 married couples who sign up. The weekend seminar is dedicated to enriching your marriage and your relationship with your spouse. For reservations call the Family Life Center at DSN 423-5653 or 065 44 5653.

BOSS Fish and Chips

Better Opportunities for Single Service Members (BOSS) offers fish and chips at the JFC U.S. Delegation, May 25, from noon - 1 p.m. for a 6 euro donation. Contact one of the following representatives for tickets.

HHC – (0)45 526-2169; PSC – (0)45 526-3746; U.S. Mailroom (JFC) – (0)45 526-2107; Air Force Delegation – (0)61 552-7706; Geilenkirchen – (0)49 245 163-3505; Schinnen – (0)46 443-7293.

Alliance Players holds auditions

The Alliance Players will hold auditions for their next play, Agatha Christie's "The Unexpected Guest", at the Alliance Theater, JFC Brunssum, June 2 and June 5 at 6 p.m. both days.

Actors of any age are encouraged to audition. People for behind the scenes are also needed for set design/construction, props management, stage management, publicity, ticket sales, lighting and sound engineers, costuming and more.

If you would like to audition and are not available for either of the above dates call 0049-2452-156006 or via email at social@allianceplayers.com

Leisure Activities ~ by Rita Hoefnagels

May 20-22: Large *Carnival and Fair* at Vrijthof in Maastricht (NL).

May 21: *Saturday Boogie Night 'Light Version'* at Fort Sint Pieter at Luikerweg in Maastricht (NL). Open: 9 p.m.-3 a.m. Entry: Euro 12.50. Information/reservation: 31 (0)43-3217133.

May 21-22: *Joust* at Castle De Haar in Haarzuilens (NL) with mighty and brave knights in shining armor. Besides the joust there will be archery, hunting, a medieval market, demonstrations and many actors in medieval costumes. Entry: Euro 12; children Euro 10. Directions: A12 direction Utrecht, take exit 15 Vleuten-De Meern.

Thru May 22: *Philip Morris Jazz Weekend* in the center of Bergen op Zoom (NL).

May 22: *Harley Davidson Day* at Kerkplein (Church Square) in the center of Arnhem (NL) with biker market, music and lots of special activities.

Jukebox Outdoor at Autotron in Rosmalen (NL). A market where one can find a lot of items from the fifties, such as jukeboxes, pinball machines, refrigerators, enamel boards, TVs and more. Entry: Euro 10; children Euro 5. Information: 31 (0)73-5233300.

May 24: Jack Million Band at Fort Sint Pieter, Luikerweg in Maastricht (NL). Repertoire consists of music from Sinatra; Nat King Cole; Glenn Miller; etc. Entry: Euro 5. Information: 31 (0)43-3217133.

May 25-29: *Spa Regatta* at Medemblik (NL), this is the international sailing and windsurfing top (700 participants) battle in the ten Olympic sailing and windsurfing categories.

Thru May 29: *International Sandsculpture Festival* at the beach in Scheveningen (NL). Building sandcastles is elevated to an art form in Scheveningen. National and international teams compete on the beach for the most beautiful sandcastle.

May 29: *Global Cultural Festival* with workshops, a multi-cultural market and live music at Charles Eyck Park in Maastricht (NL). Entry is free.

June 3: *Rhythm & Blues Festival* at several locations in the center of Zwolle (NL).

June 3-19: *Cirque du Soleil* at Ahoy in Rotterdam (NL). This is more than a circus or theater show: it makes the impossible possible. The international cast presents a huge variety of new acts, including unequaled tight-rope acts and acrobatic tours de force. Information: www.ahoy.nl.

Thru June 12: *All Dali* at Museum Boijmans van Beuningen on Museumplein 18-20 in Rotterdam (NL). This exhibition presents the unknown side of Salvador Dali. Paintings, drawings, photos and other items show Dali's versatility. Objects on display include the Mae West Lip Sofa and the painting "Figueras". Admission is Euro 12. Information: 31 (0)10-4419475.



JFC

Alliance Theater

May 20, 4 p.m. *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*. Starring Kimberly Elise, Steve Harris. Rated PG-13. Devoted housewife Helen and powerful attorney Charles have a picture-perfect marriage. Just as Helen begins preparations to celebrate their 20th anniversary, Charles drops his bomb: he wants to divorce Helen for her best friend.

7 p.m. *Million Dollar Baby*. Starring Clint Eastwood, Hilary Swank, Morgan Freeman. Rated PG-13. Frankie Dun is a veteran boxing trainer who has devoted his life to the ring and has little to show for it. He's estranged from his daughter and a fighter he's groomed has signed with another manager. Then, Maggie Fitzgerald enters his life and announces she needs a trainer.

May 27, 7:30 p.m. *Hostage*. Starring Bruce Willis, Kevin Pollak. Rated R. Jeff Talley, a former LAPD hostage negotiator, has moved himself away from his failed career outside of Los Angeles, and away from his wife and daughter.

When a convenience store robbery goes wrong, the three perpetrators move in on an unsuspecting family.

May 28, 4 p.m. *Ice Princess*. Starring Michelle Trachtenberg, Joan Cusack. Rated G. Casey has never quite fit in. Caught between her fantasy of becoming a championship figure skater and her strong-willed mother, who has her on the fast track to Howard, she can only hope to be like Nike, Tiffany and Gen – three elite skating prodigies who are ruthlessly competing on the US National circuit.

7 p.m. *The Ring 2*. Starring Naomi Watts, Simon Baker. Rated PG-13. Rachel Keller, who, six months after the events of the first film, moves to Astoria, Ore., with her son Aidan to escape their memories of what happened in Seattle. When a few locals start dying, and a strange videotape appears, Rachel becomes aware that the creepy Samara is back and after Aidan.

Civic contributions rewarded

By J.D. Hardesty

BRUSSELS - NATO Support Activity Brussels recently recognized community volunteers at its annual "Our Volunteers are Gems" recognition ceremony at the NSA Three Star Lounge.

Beth Ann Bottesini was honored as "Volunteer of the Year" for her many civic contributions with the Parent, Teacher, Student Organization, Brussels American Schools, the Chapel Catholic Religious Education Program, Club Beyond, president of the board and day manager of the Brussels Consignment Shop, U.S. Delegation Spouses Organization committee chairperson and the NATO Bazaar committee chairperson.

At the school, she volunteered with the Booster Club, was on the school improvement planning committee and assisted the drama club.

The La Belle family received top honors as the "Volunteer Family of the Year."

Tim La Bell served as committee chairman for Boy Scout Troop 457, along with donating time at the school for sports, the junior class, the Ukraine teacher exchange, and chairing the advisory committee.

His wife, Tammy, volunteers with the NATO Bazaar, Club Beyond, the Boy Scouts of America, the Ukraine teacher exchange. She also serves as the junior class sponsor, and works with the school's booster and

sports programs.

Their sons, Kevin and Scott, are involved in student government at the school, NSA special events, the Boy Scouts of America, the community band and Club Beyond.

Three families were nominated for the honor

A crowd of 130 volunteers, dignitaries and staff attended the event to highlight the 15 organizations who participated in the Volunteer of the Year program.



PHOTO: Dorothy Nevins

Volunteer of the Year Beth Bottesini receives a framed print of Brussels from Lt. Col. Jon Davis, NATO Support Activity Commander, left; and Brig. Gen. John Adams, Deputy U.S. Military Representative to the NATO Military Committee.

NATO Support Activity Volunteer Recognition

Volunteer of the Year: Beth Ann Bottesini

Volunteer Family of the Year: La Belle Family

Tender Heart: Marsha Bentley, Susan Bigelow, Vicky Cox, Angela Critics, Kim Grennek, Tammy La Belle, Emily Moseman, Tech. Sgt. Lonnie Ruffin, Anthony Walker

NSA at-Large: Beth Ann Bottesini, Master Sgt. Gary R. Goodman, Brenadine Humphrey

Army Community Service: Deborah H. Goodman

Brussels American Community Choir: A. Ann Toothman

Brussels American School: Tracey Deverill

BAS PTSO: Lisa Ela

Brussels Consignment Shop: Linda Riley

Boy Scout Troop 457: Jack Maher

Cub Scout Pack 457: Patrick Salada

Family Readiness Group: Mylene Marquez

MCYM Club Beyond Support Group: Maj. Keith Cox

NATO Bazaar Committee: Connye Thomas

NSA Chapel: Monica L. Mariano

NSA Post Office: David Zellmer

NSA Sports and Fitness: Elise O'Loughlin

USA Girl Scouts-Brussels: Karen Umlang

YS Sports: Tuck MacRae

The Battle of Bon Secours

Story and Photos by J.D. Hardesty

The Battle of Bon Secours is fought annually in the shadows of the Basilica located atop a hill where one side slopes toward Belgium and the other side to the French border...a gateway for America's World War II soldiers to liberate its Belgian ally.

This year's battle was fought in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the victory in Europe, V-E Day, May 8.

Re-enactors from France and Belgium took to the cobbled streets to fight for control of the village located some 200 kilometers from the French border as residents and visitors from several countries lined each side of the sidewalks to watch the narrated event.

The Germans took control of Bon Secours before local underground resistance fighters joined forces with American and other Allied troops to repel the Nazis and liberated its citizens from Hitler's oppressive control in the mid-1940s.

The re-enactment serves as a celebration and a history lesson.



(Clockwise from top right) German re-enactors take over Bon Secours. The village resistance fights back. An American soldier joins the fight. A parade of American vehicles repels the Nazis to liberate the village. A young boy holds up a "V" for victory as Americans continue to storm into the village continuing the fight against the retreating German force.



Wuerzburg sprints to track meet victory



Photo: J.D. Hardesty

Matt Reiemann finishes second in the 800-meter race May 7 hosted by SHAPE American School. SHAPE took third place in the nine-team meet while Brussels finished in sixth place, followed by AF North in seventh.

By J.D. Hardesty

SHAPE High School's track team took third place winning three events and amassing 143 points in a nine-team meet here May 7.

Wuerzburg's 288 first-place points, 182 points of which were powered by its dominate girl's team claiming nine of 17 overall events, finished well ahead of second-place London Central's 200-point team total.

SHAPE's Stephanie Gonzales' raced to the team's only individual first place finish, winning the girl's 800-meters in 2:28.58 to easily outdistance Natalie Brooks of Menwith Hill (North Yorkshire, England) by 14 seconds.

The SHAPE boy's teamed sprinted to top honors in the 400-meter and sprint medley relays recording winning times of 47.88 and 4:09.5 respectively.

Other winners within the Benelux included AF North's Anthony Poole in the 200 meters (25.23.2) and Brussels Nathan Malinski's 3,000-meter win (10:36.35).

Bitburg's Michael Romero swept the 110-meter high hurdles and 300-meter hurdles races, and Wuerzburg's Antoine Sims double victory in the high jump and long jump

Wuerzburg's Kristin Hickey sprinted to 100-meter and 200-meter victories and Menwith Hill's Knisha Freeman scored victories in the shot put and discuss to account for the only girls to win two events.

Team results: 1, Wuerzburg 288, 2, London Central 200, 3, **SHAPE 143**, 4, Menwith Hill 114, 5, Bitburg 96, 6, **Brussels 54**, 7, **AF North 30**, 8, Lakenheath 30, 9, Alchonbury 29.

Boy's Results

Boy's team score: 1 (tie) Wuerzburg 106, London Central 106; 3, Bitburg 82; 4, **Shape 62**; 5, Menwith Hill 52; 6, **Brussels 46**; 7, Alchonbury 17; 8, **AF North 14**; 9, Lakenheath 6. 100 meters: 1, Simon Shaw, (Bit), 11.19; 2, **Anthony Marquez, (SHP), 11.47**; 3, LeShawn Adams, (MH), 11.80. 200: 1, Anthony Poole (AFN) 25.23; 2, Chris Brew (MH) 25.38; 3, **William McArthur (SHP) 25.46**.

400: 1, Tim Parker (Wuerz) 55.26; 2, Bradley McNair (Wuerz) 55.29; 3, **Anthony Angelella (SHP) 56.43**.

800: 1, McNair 2:14.30; 2, **Matt Reimann (Brus) 2:14.86**; 3, Alvin Davis (Wuerz) 2:16.53.

1,500: 1, Kyle Fluker (Bit) 4:49.41; 2, **Nathan Malinski (Brus) 4:59.96**; 3, Kyle Lucas (Alchon) 5:06.07.

3,000: 1, **Malinski 10:36.35**; 2, Chris Ela (Brus) 11:08.88; 3, Jesse Best (MH) 11:24.47.

400 relay: 1, **Shape A Team 47.88**; 2, Menwith Hill 48:87; 3, Wuerzburg B Team 49.86.

1,600 relay: 1, Wuerzburg 3:46.7; 2, **SHAPE 4:02.2**; 3, London Central 4:05.4.

3,200 relay: 1, London Central Sprint medley: 1, **SHAPE 4:09.5**; 2, Wuerzburg 4:23; 3, London Central 4:41.9.

100 high hurdles: 1, Michael Romero (Bit) 16.07; 2, (tie) Shawn Banuchi (Bit), Seth Villarel (LC) 17.53.

300 hurdles: 1, Romero 44.89; 2, Villarel 46.20; 3, Daniel Renaud (Bit) 47.00.

High jump: 1, Antoine Sims (Wuerz) 5 feet, 2 inches; 2, Doug Bagnall (Alchon) 5-0; 3, Villarel 4-8.

Long jump: 1, Sims 18-7; 2, Stephen Lee (Bit) 18-0; 3, Marcel Whitehurst (Wuerz) 17-6.

Triple jump: 1, Anthony Thomas (LC) 38-4; 2, Adams 35-6; 3, Whitehurst 35-0.

Shot put: 1, Mike Ramble

(Wuerz) 41-8; 2, Jeff Thomas (LC) 41-6; 3, Jesse Tate (LC) 38-0.

Discus: 1, Raynor Buckley (Bit) 121-8; 2, J. Thomas 120-0; 3, Tom Tate (LC) 117-2.

Girl's results

Girl's team score: 1, Wuerzburg 182; 2, London Central, 94; 3, **SHAPE 81**; 4, Menwith Hill 62; 5, Lakenheath 24; 6, **AF North 16**; 7, Bitburg 14; 8, Alchonbury 12; 9, **Brussels 8**.

100 meters: 1, Kristin Hickey (Wuerz) 12.77; 2, Claudia Carraux (Wuerz) 13.00; 3, **Sandra Pihlak (Brus) 13.09**.

200: 1, Hickey 26.50; 2, Latia Carter (Wuerz) 26.59; **Jasmine Miller (AFN) 27.56**.

400: 1, Brittanie Langford (Wuerz), 1:03.11; 2, Carter 1:03.18; 3, Porshe Leslie (Wuerz) 1:04.47.

800: 1, **Stephanie Gonzales (SHP) 2:28.58**; 2, Natalie Brooks (MH) 2:44.65; 3, **Elizabeth Hauser (SHP) 2:51.54**.

1,500: 1, Brooks 5:35.77; 2, **Allyce McWhorter (SHP) 5:56**; 3, Salina BooDoosingh (Wuerz) 6:11.

3,000: 1, Diana Rosslerova (Wuerz) 12:43.16; 2, **Hauser 13:19.02**; 3, **McWhorter 13:35.72**.

100 low hurdles: 1, Myaj Stewart (Wuerz) 16.71; 2, Anna Rodriguez (LC) 18.35; 3, Felicia Taylor (Wuerz) 19.75.

300 intermediate hurdles: 1, Rodriguez 53.67; 2, Alysia Freeman (Bit) 54.80; 3, Stewart 55.43.

400 relay: 1, Wuerzburg A Team 52.43; 2, Wuerzburg B Team 58.79; 3, Menwith Hill 1:01.1.

1,600 relay: 1, Wuerzburg 4:33.7; Menwith Hill 5:09.7; London Central 5:48.9.

3,200 relay: 1, Wuerzburg 11:13.1; 2, London Central 13:49. Sprint medley relay: 1, London Central 5:56.9; 2, **SHAPE 5:11.1**; Wuerzburg 6:14.

High jump: 1, Kim Shelton (MH) 4 feet, 6 inches; 2, Jasmine Clayton (LC) 4-4; 3, Rodriguez 4-0.

Long jump: 1, Carter 13-9; 2, **Devina Marquez (SHP) 15-3**; 3, **Cecily Smith (SHP) 13-3**.

Triple jump: 1, Clayton 27-7; 2, Breanna Henley (Laken) 24-2; 3, Felicia Lamothe (Laken) 23-0.

Shot put: 1, Knisha Freeman (MH) 32-2; 2, **Deanna Baldwin (AFN) 27-9**; 3, Mary Bost (Wuerz) 25-3.

Discus: 1, Freeman 94-1; 2, Jamie Romero (Alchon) 85-2; 3, **Ashley Williams (SHP) 80-2**.



Photo: J.D. Hardesty

SHAPE's Allyce McWhorter tries to hold off Menwith Hill's Natalie Brooks in the 1,500 meters but couldn't keep pace and finished at 5:56 for second place, well off of Brooks' winning time of 5:37.77. McWhorter also finished third in the 3,000 meters with a time of 13:35.72.

V-E Day in the 80th Area Support Group

included the Aviator's March and Mother's Day in addition to ceremonies marking the 60th anniversary of the surrender of German forces and the end of World War II hostilities in Europe. An afternoon ceremony May 8 in the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base, the departure point for the sixth Aviator's March, honored 22 surviving members of the 5th Belgian Fusilier Bn. for their combat roles during the Battle of the Bulge.



PHOTOS: J.D. Hardesty

Above, 22 members of the 5th Belgian Fusiliers were presented with medals for their combat in the Battle of the Bulge by Chaplain (Col.) Sidney Marceaux and Lt. Col. Scott Glass, both of the 80th Area Support Group. At left, Frans Marique beams. Below, 523 marchers (and bikers) completed their circuits of Chièvres Air Base by day's end. Far left, a color guard from 80th Area Support Group paraded in Brugelette to honor V-E Day.



PHOTO: Rick Havärinen



PHOTO: Haverinen

Carnaval time is pedal to the metal

Story and photos by Rick Haverinen

The carnival in La Louvière is a hereditary tradition for one Belgian family.

Yves Brepols works as the driver for Col. Dean Nowowiejski, Com-



Yves Brepols pulls on his wooden clogs. It's around 4:15 a.m., Sunday, March 6. He'll have miles to go before he sleeps.

mander of 80th Area Support Group, but every year he takes a week off to support the La Louvière mid-Lent carnival as a costumed Gille. The event happened this year from the very early

Brepols put on the costume for the first time when he was about the same age as Florian.

Being one of La Louvière's approximately 850 costumed Gilles takes much time, stamina, and money.

The commitment of hours to make all the revelry is huge. Each Gille is picked up by members of his society at his home in the wee hours of Sunday morning. The Gille steps out his front door to be greeted by drumming, a jig played on a fife, and usually fireworks of some kind. The whole group dances in costume and wooden clogs to the music. Then everyone is invited inside for a drink and snacks. The group departs to march down the street, the clomping of their wooden shoes accompanied by the group's drummers, to the next home where the process is repeated. These stops are only interrupted by short visits by the group to neighborhood bars, which become increasingly crowded as the Gilles grow in numbers. Remember all this parading, drumming, dancing and fireworks are happening between 4-6 a.m. Sunday morning.

That day ends around 1 a.m. Monday morning. That's around 21 hours just for the first day. The Gille gets a few hours rest, but is back in costume by 7 a.m. to support the merriment until



Yves Brepols insists it's impossible to be a Gille unless there are women around to put you right. Florian gets some packing, pushing and pulling from his grandmother, mother and aunt.

tain the crowds, and symbolically he drives away winter with a bundle of sticks and by tossing oranges, a tropical fruit, to the many thousands of people who attend.

"We shake the ground with the shoes to push winter away and let spring come in," Brepols said.

Brepols' society, "The Reunited Friends," also produces a travesty on the final day of carnival.

With all the fun-making, there are many traditions of discipline. The Gille cannot sit unless he is having a meal break. He cannot remove any part of the costume and even in the March cold, he may not wear gloves. He is allowed, even encouraged, to drink but he dares not consume too much or he will be sent home and perhaps be expelled from his membership in one of La Louvière's six societies of Gilles.

"Everything must be very clean," Brepols said. "You need to buy your costume from the designated factory."

A Gille would never discuss this issue publicly, but it's an expensive volunteer commitment. The costume costs



hundreds of euros and a new one must be purchased every year.

So why go to all the trouble?

"Everybody is happy to see the Gilles," Brepols said. "You help make this experience of carnival. It's very nice when the people see this. When you hear the music, you dance. You have no choice — your body follows the music. You drink a little bit, and you're ready to make a fat day. In Belgium you have it in your blood. You like music, you like costume, you like tradition, you like everything. And this is the most important time for me."



Along toward sunrise, the Society of Reunited Friends is gathering up more and more Gilles as they head downtown to start this year's carnival.

hours of March 6 through the very early hours of March 9.

And there was a premiere to celebrate. This year Brepols' son, Florian, 9, made his first appearance as a Gille in a scaled-down version of the traditional costume.

"Florian is very happy to have made the Gille," Brepols said. "Now he tells me he's ready to start next year. He knows there's a big difference between seeing the Gilles on the street and actually being one. Now he has made Gille the first time it's paradise for him. He's very happy."

3 a.m. or so Tuesday morning. That's another 20 hours. The Gilles get to sleep in Tuesday morning and don't report for duty until around 1 p.m., but they have to keep going until 6 a.m. Wednesday morning when an effigy of a Gille is burned, and carnival is put in hibernation until the next year.

"When the sun comes up you need to disappear," Brepols said.

The commitment totals a minimum 58 hours out of a 76 hour time period from 4 a.m. Sunday until 6 a.m. Wednesday.

The Gille's main job is to dance, en-



The sun is up and 850 Gilles in La Louvière start a day that will end past midnight. The Gilles are on duty 58 hours out of a 76-hour time period.

Youth basketball camps set

Chièvres Air Base hosts two Dodds-Europe sactioned summer basketball camps in June for high school students led by Nate Dixon, assistant coach

for the University of Florida Gators.

A girl’s camp is set for June 19-21 and boy’s camp June 21-24 for students currently enrolled in grades eight through 11 who will return to a DoDDS-E school next year.

Those attending must be nominated by their school basketball coach or athletic director with a limit of three for each camp. Application forms must be completed and collected by May 25. Cost is \$65. For details and registration

packets are available at <http://eteamz.active.com/BitburgBasketball/>. For more information, contact Mike Vargas, Shape High School, DSN 423 5715/4130, or Lin Hairstone, Bitburg Middle School, DSN 452-9031/9332.



Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates Copy is due at noon

Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date
May 23	June 3	June 20	July 1	July 25	Aug. 5	Aug. 23	Sept. 2
June 6	June 17	July 4	July 15	Aug. 8	Aug. 19	Sept. 6	Sept. 16

About the Meteor-Heraut

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- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
- Articles in plain text and separate photographic files may be submitted but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor. All submissions should be in electronic form as plain text. We cannot process information in documents such as PowerPoint, Excel or Acrobat.
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Copy and photographs are due by noon 11 calendar days before publication date.

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